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Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fisher Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

Fax: 301-827-6870

RE: Docket No. 98P-0504

Dear Sir/Madame:

We object to the request by the Center for Science in the Public Interest to impose post-harvest treatment on shellfish. While there is no doubt that consuming raw animals poses a health risk, that risk is well known in the public. This is particularly true in the case of raw oysters.

Many customers, even in light of menu warnings as are required in Texas, enjoy and demand raw oysters. Informed customers order raw oysters knowing that for a normal healthy adult the risk of serious illness is low. We recognize that individuals with medical conditions placing them at higher risk of serious illness should not consume any raw animal and would expect that the treating physician would warn the individual to avoid uncooked animals. However, medical conditions unique to a small portion of the population should not drive the processing or service of food to the population as a whole.

We support the FDA's ongoing research in this area and urge the administration to reject the petition submitted by CSPI.

Respectfully yours,

Glen Garey
General Counsel

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